Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19: Canceled

20. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the step of making a lay-up includes the steps of:

wrapping each tube in the joint with a first carbon fiber fabric that is impregnated with the matrix material, the ends of the fabric extending beyond the tube;

wrapping the ends of the carbon fiber fabric that is wrapped around a given tube around the tube the given tube joins to;

wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric whose fibers have an orientation different from that of the fibers in the first carbon fiber fabric.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (original) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:

the step of wrapping the entire joint is done such that all seams in the second carbon fiber fabric are at the top and bottom of the tubes and the second carbon fiber fabric is overlapped at the seams.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A method of making a lug for a joint that joins carbon fiber tubes in a bicycle frame,

the method comprising the steps of:

making a lay-up of at least carbon fibers and a matrix material around the tubes at the joint, the lay-up forming a continuous wrap around the tubes;

applying a mold having abutting parting planes to the joint, the applied mold's inner surface completely enclosing the lay-up and the tubes at the joint ~~and the inner surface having a lining of silicon which is trapped between the inner surface and the enclosed lay-up and tubes~~; and

applying heat to the mold's interior, the heat causing the lay-up to cure and further causing ~~the trapped silicon to expand against the mold's inner surface~~an expandable element located between the mold and the tubes to expand and compact the enclosed lay-up against the tubes evenly throughout the lug, whereby voids in the lug are prevented.

26. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the mold conducts heat; and

in the step of applying heat, the mold is made of a heat-conducting material and the heat is applied to the mold.

27. (previously presented) the method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the distance between the inner surface of the mold and a tube being joined decreases as the distance from the joint increases,

whereby the lug tapers towards the tube.

28. (new) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the mold is lined with silicone; and

in the step of applying heat, the expandable element is the silicone.

29. (new) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein:

the step of making the lay-up includes the step of including a layer of expandable syntactic foam in the lay-up; and

in the step of applying heat, the expandable element is the expandable syntactic foam.

30. (new) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:

the step of making a lay-up further includes the step of:

including a layer of expandable syntactic foam in the lay-up.

31. (new) The method set forth in claim 30 wherein:

the step of including a layer of expandable syntactic foam is performed before the step of wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric.